

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Can be found at the end of this newsletter

PEONY PAVILION

Chinese Theatre Works, a New York-based theatre troupe featuring performers and musicians from the Chinese mainland and Taiwan, will present “*Wandering in the Garden and Waking from a Dream*,” from China’s beloved Ming dynasty opera *Mudan ting* (The Peony Pavilion) on 6 March 2008. The audience will see lovers joined in a surreal dream episode, then rudely wakened to reality. Exquisite costumes, makeup, singing and dancing, accompanied by virtuosos on traditional instruments!

One Night Only – Curtain time will be 8:00 pm on Thursday, 6 March 2008 at the CAPA Theatre (Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts), 111 Ninth St. Pittsburgh, PA 15222. This special event is presented by the University of Pittsburgh’s Confucius Institute and the Asian Studies Center, part of the University Center for International Studies. General Admission: \$25.00; Students & Seniors: \$10.00. ProArtsTickets charge-by-phone 412.394.3353. Or ProArtsTickets Online at www.proartstickets.org. Questions? Contact Katherine Carlitz at kcarlitz@pitt.edu or 412.648.7371.

Fulbright Programs

All interested students (undergraduate and graduate), as well as staff and faculty are invited to a briefing session about the Fulbright U.S. Student Program on Monday, 3 March 08 at 12:00 noon and again at 4:30 pm in the CMU University Center Peter/McKenna Conference Rooms, 2nd floor. This event is sponsored by the CMU Fellowships & Scholarships Office and Pitt’s Honors College. For more information, see the Fulbright website at www.fulbrightonline.org or contact Judy Zang at 412.268.1969 or jzang@cmu.edu.

JERO IN JAPAN

26-year-old Jerome White, Jr. seems to have found his calling in Japan. Better known by his stage name “JERO,” White is a rising young star in the world of traditional Japanese ballads known as *enka*. A Pittsburgh native and 2003 Pitt graduate in Information Science, White has studied Japanese since high school, was an Asian Studies certificate student, and participated in Pitt’s exchange program with Kansai Gaidai University.

After graduating from Pitt, White became an English teacher and then computer engineer in Japan, where he was discovered by national TV network NHK when he won the top prize in an enka singing contest and was soon scouted by a major record label. White is the first African-American to become a professional enka singer in Japan, and his single *Umiyuki* is ranked at #3 in national sales this week (2/20-2/27/08). Check out his site and hear him sing!

<http://www.jvcmusic.co.jp/jero/>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEmeVeQe56U>

5th Annual Korean Film Festival

March 28 – April 11, 2008

The Korean section of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures will be holding their annual Korean Film Festival throughout late March and early April, showcasing recent Korean films (shown with English subtitles). Films to be shown this year include:

- March 28 - “**Yobi, the Five Tailed Fox**
(*천년여우 여우비*)”
- April 4 - “**The King and the Clown**
(*왕의 남자*)”
- April 11 - “**Wedding Champaign**
(*나의 결혼 원정기*)”

Films will be shown in room 4130 Posvar Hall at 6:00 pm each evening, and light refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact Dr. Ebru Turker at turker@pitt.edu or 412-624-5562.

Language Tables

The Asian Students’ Alliance at Pitt will hold Language Tables on Feb. 26th, March 25th, and April 8th in WPU 1st Fl. dining room A&B from 7 pm to 9 pm. This event aims to expose students to various Asian languages and enable them to practice or to learn a new Asian language. Students will have a chance to interact with language “leaders” who are in higher level or are fluent speakers in Korean, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Arabic, and Hindi. And as always, refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Mr. Thu Nguyen at thn10+@pitt.edu.

February

Fri. 29 Feb.: **“TRANSIT 2008.”** An exhibition of on-going cross-cultural exchange featuring diverse work from: Kyoto University of Art & Design, Nagoya Zokei University of Art & Design, Tokyo Zokei University and Carnegie Mellon University. Reception Feb. 29, 5-8 pm. Regina Gouger Miller Gallery, Purnell Center for the Arts, CMU. 5000 Forbes Ave. 412.268.3618. Open Tuesday thru Sunday, 11:30 am to 5:00 pm

March

Wed. 5 Mar.: **“New Trends in Buddhism in Modern China.”** Lecture by WEI Dedong, Associate Professor of Religious Studies Renmin at University of China and Postdoctoral Fellow at Baylor University at 12:00 noon in 2628 C.L. WEI Dedong specializes in the sociology of religion and the scientific study of religion.

Thurs. 6 Mar.: **“Social & Cultural Needs and Participation of International Students: A Case Study at the University of Pittsburgh.”** ASIA OVER LUNCH series lecture by Mayumi Terano (graduate student, School of Education). Noon, 4130 Posvar Hall. Pizza will be served. Bring your own drink

Thurs. 6 Mar.: **THE PEONY PAVILION.** One of China’s most beloved operas. 8:00 pm, CAPA Theatre, 111 Ninth St, Pgh, PA 15222. Tickets will soon be available through ProArts Ticket Service. Contact Dr. Katherine Carlitz (kcarlitz@pitt.edu) for further information

Fri. 7 Mar.: **“The Middle-Class as a Social Norm: Consumer Citizenship in China’s Reform.”** Lecture by Hai Ren, PhD (East Asian Studies, University of Arizona). 3:00 pm, 3106 Posvar (Anthropology Lounge). As a social engineering project, Hai Ren argues that the making of responsible middle-class subjects through consumption is part of the government’s larger project of engineering a new society for the future.

Fri. 7 Mar.: **“Old Friendships: Exploring the Historic Relationship between Pan-Islamism and Japanese Pan-Asianism.”** EALL Department Colloquium lecture by Sadia Sattar (MA candidate, East Asian Studies). 2:00 pm, 4130 Posvar Hall. Refreshments will be served

Sun.-Sun. 9 thru 16 Mar. (inclusive): SPRING RECESS FOR STUDENTS (no classes)

Sun. 9 Mar.: **“Journey to the West – Journey to the East.”** Musical concert of two cultural traditions featuring Mimi Jong on the Chinese *erhu* and Jeff Berman on the lap dulcimer. 2:00 pm at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (Oakland branch), main floor. Free to the public. For more information, call 412.622.3151 or visit www.carnegielibrary.org.

Fri. 14 Mar.: SPRING HOLIDAY (University closed)

Thurs. 20 Mar.: FALL TERM (2091) REGISTRATION begins. First two days reserved for seniors

Thurs. 20 Mar.: **“China’s Petition Issues and Its Institutional Origin.”** ASIA OVER LUNCH series lecture by Yujie Li (Global Studies Center, Heinz Fellow). Noon, 4130 Posvar Hall. Pizza will be served. Bring your own drink

Thurs. 27 Mar.: **“Dancing on Drugs: Normalization, Culture and Adolescent Recreational Drug Use in Hong Kong”** ASIA OVER LUNCH series lecture by Dr. Nicole Wai Ting Cheung, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, & current visiting Fulbright Scholar in the Dept. of Sociology at Pitt. Noon, 4130 Posvar Hall. Pizza will be served. Bring your own drink

Fri. 28 Mar.: **“What Appeals to Chinese Customers? International Advertising of Global Brands in China”.** EALL Department Colloquium lecture by Kun Tian (MA candidate, East Asian Studies). 2:00 pm, 4130 Posvar Hall. Refreshments will be served

Fri. 28 Mar.: **“All Frills: Girlie Taste and Japanese Consumer Culture.”** Japan Speaker Series lecture by Tomiko Yoda (Associate Professor, Asian & African LL & L, Duke University). 2:00 pm, Anthropology Lounge, 31006 Posvar. Professor Yoda considers the articulation of girlie romantic taste in post-60s female-oriented medias in Japan & how it may have contributed to the spread of ‘cuteness’ as a pervasive idiom in the country’s popular culture.

Fri. 28 Mar.: SPRING KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL: **Yobi, the Five-Tailed Fox** (2007), Animated Korean Film, Director: Lee Seong-gang. 6:00 pm, 4130 Posvar. One hundred years ago, aliens landed on a mountain near where a small, white five tailed fox lived. After being stranded on Earth for one hundred years, they are ready for a test flight to see if they can return home. The test fails as one of the aliens makes a mistake, and the other aliens tell him to leave.

The runaway alien finds itself taken in by a class of students at the foot of the mountain. There, a teacher named Kang trains students who don't fit in at a regular school. To save the alien, the five tailed fox takes on the form of a human girl, and joins the school under the name of Yobi.

Staying at the school, Yobi becomes friends with one of the students, a boy named Geum-ie. She enjoys her time with the humans, until a fox hunter appears, as well as a shadow who gives Yobi a device which will allow her to become human by taking the soul from a human.

Sun. 30 Mar.: **DARBARI ENSEMBLE**. Concert of Indian Classical Music. Pt. Ramesh Misra, Sarangi; Steve Gorn, Bansuri (Indian bamboo flute); Ms. Allyn Miner, sitar; Samir Chatterjee, Tabla. 6:30 pm, Pitt's Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. For tickets and information: <http://www.tabla.org/events.html> OR <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/chhandayan/cal>

April

Fri. 4 April: **SPRING KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL: *The King and the Clown (2006)***, Drama, Director: Lee Jun-ik. 6:00 pm, 4130 Posvar. Cast: Gam U-seong, Jeong Jin-yeong, Kang Seong-yeon, Lee Jun-gi, Jang Hang-seon, Yu Hae-jin. Set in the early 16th century during the reign of King Yeonsan, two street clowns, Jang-saeng and Gong-gil, come to Hanyang to escape the abuse of powerful aristocrats. After arriving in the capital, Jang-saeng and Gong-gil perform a skit mocking the King and his concubine Nok-su, but when the palace learns of it, they are arrested for treason. While enduring torture, Jang-saeng raves that if given the chance, they could make the King laugh. Fortunately, he is correct, and the two are appointed as royal jesters, despite the vehement objection of the court.

Living in the palace, the troop satirizes the corruption of public officials, pleasing the king but angering the court as those parodied in the plays are punished or put to death. As the King quickly becomes infatuated with Gong-gil, Jang-saeng realizes the danger of political intrigue and asks Gong-gil to leave with him before the King kills them as well during one of his mad fits, but Gong-gil refuses. As court members plot against them and the king's tyranny increases, life becomes very uncertain for the clowns.

Thurs. 10 Apr: **"When One Door Opens, Another Closes: Immigration's Impact on Japanese Educational Policy."** Asia Over Lunch series lecture by Ellen Motohashi (Teaching Fellow, School of Education). Noon, 4130 Posvar Hall. Pizza will be served. Bring your own drink

Fri. 11 Apr.: **SPRING KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL: *Wedding Campaign (2005)***, Drama. **6:00 pm, 4130 Posvar. Director: Hwang Byeong-guk, Cast: Jeong Jae-yeong, Yu Jun-sang, Su Ae.** Man-taek and Hee-cheol are 38-year-old bachelors living in Yecheon, North Gyeongsang Province. Though they are completely different in character, the two have been best friends since childhood. Man-taek is an innocent and simple farmer, while Hee-cheol is a cheeky but lovable taxi driver. Suffering from ill-treatment at home because they have missed the "marriage timing," the two friends pool their fortunes to leave for Uzbekistan in search of their soul mates. There, Man-taek meets a smart and energetic local interpreter, Lara, who fixes him up with a blind date. However, there is no way that Man-taek, who is so shy he cannot even look at a woman, can succeed in a blind date.

Fri. & Sat., 11 & 12 Apr.: **University Gamelan Ensemble**, Andrew Weintraub, director. Gamelan, the traditional musical ensemble of Indonesia, consists of mainly tuned gongs and gong-chime instruments. 8:00 pm, Bellefield Hall auditorium. Pitt students free with ID. General admission \$10, student/senior admission \$5

Fri. 18 Apr.: **"Title to be announced."** EALL Department Colloquium lecture by Rachel McTernan (MA candidate, East Asian Studies). 2:00 pm, 4217 Posvar Hall (UCIS conference room). Refreshments will be served

Sun., 20 Apr.: **Concert of Indian Classical Music**. **FIRST HALF:** Chhandayan Students' Tabla Ensemble. PJIM students' vocal recital. **SECOND HALF:** Ms. Joya Biswas, sitar; Samir Chatterjee, tabla accompaniment. 4:30 pm, Pitt's Frick Fine Arts building. For tickets and information: <http://www.tabla.org/events.html> OR <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/chhandayan/cal>

Thurs. 24 Apr.: **Asian Studies Graduation Ceremony** for all students who have earned the certificate during the past academic year. 3:00 pm, Lower Lounge of the William Pitt Student Union. Reception following. Everyone is welcome to attend and celebrate the success of our certificate graduates!

Sun. 27 Apr.: **COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION**. 1:00 pm, Petersen Events Center

May

Fri – Sun 9 thru 18: **Silk Screen: The Asian American Film Festival of Pittsburgh**. The rich tapestry of Asia and Asian American culture was displayed through film, music and dance. Silk Screen showcases films and filmmakers with origins in Turkey and Iran, to India, China and Japan. For more information see their web site at www.silkscreenfestival.org